

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. By this amendment the Claims 22, 24-26 and 29 have been amended to overcome the outstanding objection. Formal drawings are also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that Claims 29 and 30 are allowed.

Independent Claim 15 recites that a challenge is capable of being transmitted by the communication means, the challenge including information representing the type of challenge, version information, alphanumeric characters, the type of challenge representing whether a network authentication has been performed. Independent Claim 35 recites that the challenge includes information representing the type of challenge, version information, alphanumeric characters, the type of challenge representing whether a network authentication has been performed.

In contrast, Euchner is directed toward a process for a cryptographic code management between a first computer unit and a second computer unit. Euchner specifically states on column 2:

authentication references with which authenticity of the computer unit is assured are exchanged between the first computer unit and the second computer unit during the authentication. . . . a subsequent negotiation of a security policy and/or a subsequent code exchange between the computer unit occurs upon employment of the authentication references. As a result of this method, it is possible to avoid explicit authentication phases between the computer units for every new code exchange and/or for every new negotiation of security policy.

However, neither this portion nor any other portion of Euchner teaches or suggests that the challenge includes information representing whether a network authentication has been performed. In contradistinction, Euchner teaches that “when negotiations of a further security policy and/or a further code exchange between further computer units of the corresponding security domains for which a mutual authentication already occurred, the exchanged authentication references can be

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto are Formal Figures 1-6 that include the approved drawing corrections submitted on May 31, 2000.

implicitly utilized in the further negotiation and/or the further code exchange for authentication of the further computer units (See col. 3, lines 5-11).

Moreover, as stated in the Abstract of Euchner, authentication references that are employed in further cryptographic phrases are exchanged during authentication of the first computer unit and the second computer unit.

At least based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that it is abundantly clear that Euchner does not anticipate or render obvious the challenges claimed wherein the type of challenge represents whether a network authentication has been performed. In contrast, in Euchner, exchanged authentication references are implicitly utilized in the further negotiation and/or the further code exchange for authentication of the further computer units.

The additional cited references fail to overcome the above deficiencies.

Accordingly, Claims 15 and 35 are allowable.

The claims depending from Claims 15 and 35 are also allowable for at least the above reasons and the additional feature(s) recited therein.

With all objections and rejections having been overcome, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account number 50-1165 (T3264-906343) any fees under 37 CFR § 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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